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USA Standard

Specifications for Accident Prevention Tags

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USA Standard Specifications for Accident Prevention Tags

Sponsor
National Safety Council

Approved September 18, 1968
United States of America Standards Institute

USA Standard

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Foreword

(This Foreword is not part of USA Standard Specifications for Accident Prevention Tags, Z35.2-1968.)

These specifications were formulated according to the procedure of the USA Standards Institute under the administrative leadership of the National Safety Council, and with the following scope:

> Design, application, and use of warning signs or symbols (other than slogans) indended to indicate and, in so far as possible, to define specific hazards of a nature such that failure to so designate them may cause, or tend to cause accidental injury to workers, or the public, or both.

The reactivation of the USA Standards Committee on Specifications for Industrial Accident Prevention Signs was begun in mid-1964. At that time the committee suggested that a standard on tags and labels be undertaken, by a subcommittee of Z35 members chaired by Mr. Michael O'Dwyer. Thus, the development and revision of the two standards became concurrent. The full committee, in session on April 22, 1966, decided against the treating of labels in the Z35.2 standard, because it found itself insufficiently staffed and unqualified to write a standard covering that subject.

Suggestions for improvement gained in the use of this standard will be welcomed. They should be sent to the United States of America Standards Institute.

USA Standards Committee Z35 consisted of the following personnel at the time action was taken on this standard:

L. W. Hagerup, *Chairman* T. F. Bresnahan, *Secretary*

Organization Represented	*Name of Representative*
American Federation of Labor & Congress of Industrial Organizations	*(Representation Vacant)*
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	F. H. Deeg *(Alt)*
American Insurance Association	W. C. Trimmer
	J. Gillice *(Alt)*
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Building Constructors Employers Association	H. McRae
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Electric Light and Power Group	D. R. Poole
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National Safety Council	L. W. Hagerup
	T. F. Bresnahan *(Alt)*
Tag & Label Manufacturers Institute	W. C. Webster
Telephone Group	V. J. Meyers
	J. R. Langwig *(Alt)*
U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards	G. Yatsko
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USA Standard Specifications for Accident Prevention Tags

Introduction

Accident prevention tags are to be used as a temporary means of warning employees of an existing hazard. They should not be used in place of, or as a substitute for, accident prevention signs.

1. Scope, Purpose, and Effective Date

1.1 Scope. The tags are a temporary means of warning all concerned of a hazardous condition, defective equipment, radiation hazards, etc. The tags are not to be considered as a complete warning method, but should be used until a positive means can be employed to eliminate the hazard; for example, a "Do Not Start" tag on power equipment shall be used for a few moments or a very short time until the switch in the system can be locked out; a "Defective Equipment" tag shall be placed on a damaged ladder and immediate arrangements made for the ladder to be taken out of service and sent to the repair shop.

1.2 Purpose. The purpose of this standard is to establish a set of specifications for tags based on experience and previous use. The tags are to be used in industry, mercantile establishments, or wherever such tags can be utilized to help prevent accidental injury to personnel or damage to property, or both.

1.3 Effective Date. It is not intended that accident prevention tags in use at the time of approval of this standard be replaced immediately with tags that conform to this standard. They should be replaced only as need requires.

2. Definitions

2.1 The word "tag" as used in these specifications refers to a surface (usually card, paper, pasteboard, or some temporary or nonpermanent material) on which letters or markings, or both, appear. These letters or markings, or both, are for warning (cautioning) or safety instruction of employees who may be exposed to hazards. They are to be affixed to the device in question by string, wire, or adhesive.

2.2 The word "shall" is to be understood as mandatory.

2.3 The word "should" is to be understood as advisory.

2.4 The word "approved" means approval by the authority having jurisdiction.

3. Do Not Start Tags

3.1 The standard background color for Do Not Start tags shall be red. (See Fig. 1.)

3.2 Letters shall be white or grey or etched, provided that a long-lasting and sharp contrast results.

3.3 Do Not Start tags shall be placed in a conspicuous location or shall be placed in such a manner that they effectively block the starting mechanism which would cause hazardous conditions should the equipment be energized.

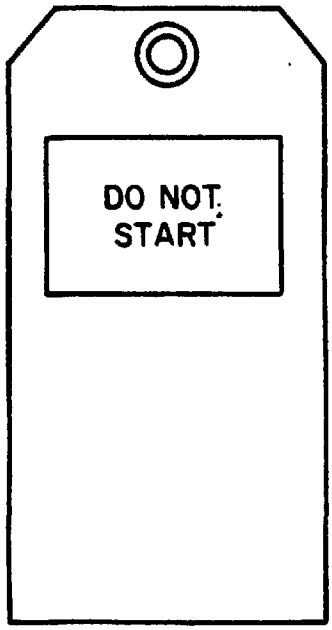
4. Danger Tags

4.1 Danger tags should be used only where an immediate hazard exists. There should be no variation in the type of design of tags posted or hung to warn of specific dangers. (See Fig. 2.)

4.2 All employees should be instructed that Danger tags indicate immediate danger and that special precautions are necessary.

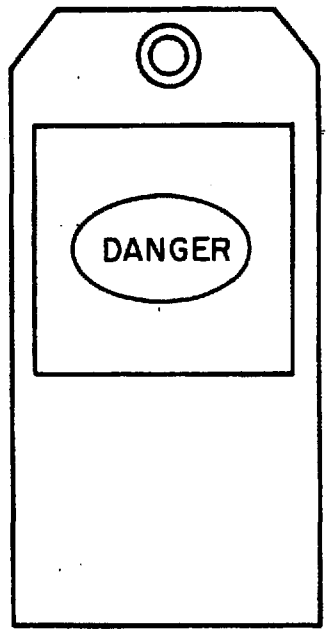
5. Caution Tags

5.1 Caution tags should be used only to warn



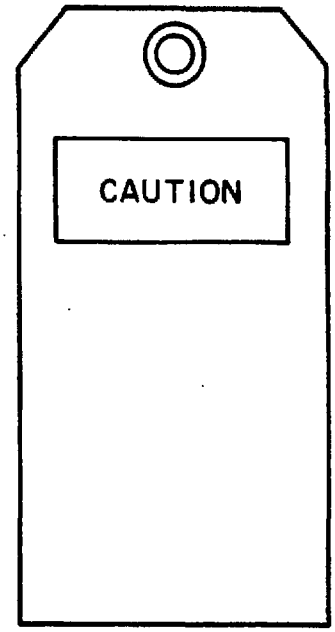
White tag
white letters on
red square

Fig. 1
Do Not Start Tag



White tag
white letters on
red oval with a
black square

Fig. 2
Danger Tag



Yellow tag
yellow letters on a
black background

Fig. 3
Caution Tag

against potential hazards or to caution against unsafe practices. (See Fig. 3.)

5.2 All employees should be instructed that Caution tags indicate a possible hazard against which proper precautions should be taken.

5.3 Caution tags might include such messages as:

Caution—Do Not Operate, Men Working on Repairs
Caution—Hands Off, Men Working on Line
Caution—Working on Machines—Do Not Start
Caution—Stop Machinery to Clean. Oil, or Repair

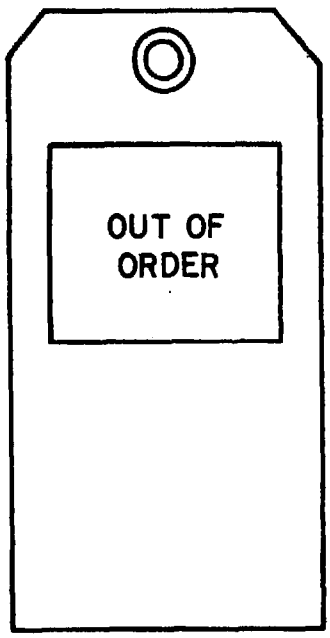
6. Out of Order Tags

Out of Order tags should be used only for the specific purpose of indicating that a piece of equipment, machinery, etc, is out of order and to attempt to use it might present a hazard. (See Fig. 4.)

7. Radiation Tags

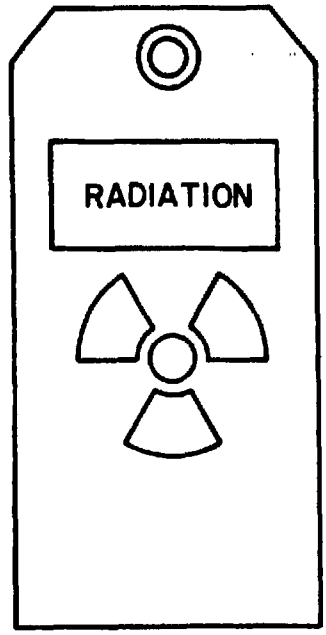
7.1 The standard background for Radiation tags shall be yellow; the panel shall be reddish purple. Any letters used against the yellow background shall be black. The colors shall be those of opaque glossy samples as specified in Table 1, Fundamental Specification of Safety Colors for CIE Standard Source "C," USA Standard Safety Color Code for Marking Physical Hazards and the Identification of Certain Equipment, Z53.1-1967.

7.2 The method of dimension, design, and orientation of the standard symbol (one blade pointed downward and centered on the vertical axis) shall be executed as illustrated in Fig. 5. The symbol shall be prominently displayed and of a size consistent with the size of the equipment or area in which it is to be used.



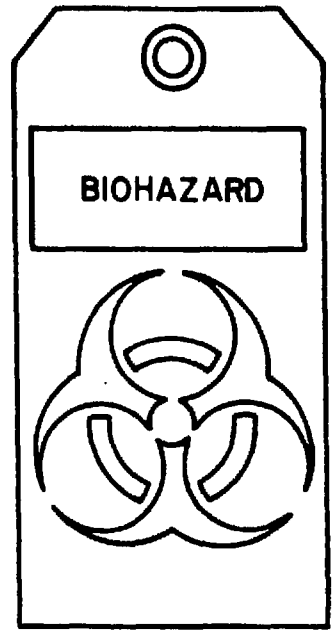
White tag
white letters on
black background

Fig. 4
Out of Order Tag



Yellow tag
yellow letters in
reddish-purple panel
(Added wording in black
on yellow background)

Fig. 5
Radiation Tag



White tag
black letters on
fluorescent-orange
background and
symbol

Fig. 6
Biological Hazard Tag

8. Biological Hazard Tags

8.1 The standard background color for the Biological Hazard symbol is optional as long as there is sufficient contrast for the symbol to be clearly defined. The symbol design (see Fig. 6) shall be a fluorescent orange or orange-red color.

8.2 The Biological Hazard tag shall be used to signify the actual or potential presence of a biohazard and to identify equipment, containers, rooms, materials, experimental animals, or combinations thereof, which contain or are contaminated with viable hazardous agents.

8.3 For the purpose of this standard the term biological hazard shall include only those infectious agents presenting a risk or potential risk to the well-being of man.

9. Tag Specifications

9.1 Sizes. (See Table 1.) The Federal Specification on Shipping and Stock Tags, UU-T-81, Oct 1965, has adopted standard sizes for shipping tags but manufacturers can, and do, deviate from these sizes.

9.2 Stock. The choice of the proper stock for tags can differ according to the use to which it is to be put. Although Federal Specification UU-T-81 does describe tag stock, manufacturers are not required to conform to these in the manufacture of accident prevention tags.

9.3 Patch Reinforcement. While the shape of a patch may differ between manufacturers, the patch is universally made from 100 percent chemical wood pulp stock and can either be a fiber or coated material. Minimum thickness for the patch, as specified in UU-T-81, is 0.010 inches. Although the diameter of the hole of the patch may vary, 5/16 inch is generally recognized as standard. As an additional reinforcing measure, metal eyelets, normally 5/16 inch, may be inserted into the patch hole.

Patches may be attached with waterproof adhesive when tag is subject to abnormal

humidity conditions. Individual manufacturers will have varying standards on waterproof adhesive.

10. Revision of USA Standard Referred to in This Document

When the following USA Standard referred to in this document is superseded by a revision approved by the USA Standards Institute, the revision shall apply:

USA Standard Safety Color Code for Marking Physical Hazards and the Identification of Certain Equipment, Z53.1-1967

Table 1
Specifications for Accident Prevention Tags

See Section	Basic Stock (Background)	Safety Colors (Ink)	Copy Specification (Letters)	Attachments
3	White	Red	Do Not Start	Strung (minimum No. 9 twine) Wired (23 gage steel wire)
4	White	Black and Red	Danger	Strung (minimum No. 9 twine) Wired (23 gage steel wire)
5	Yellow	Black	Caution	Strung (minimum No. 9 twine) Wired (23 gage steel wire)
6	White	Black	Out of Order	Strung (minimum No. 9 twine) Wired (23 gage steel wire)
7	Yellow	Reddish Purple	Radiation	Strung (minimum No. 9 twine) Wired (23 gage steel wire)
8	Optional	Fluorescent Orange or Orange-Red	Biological Hazard	Strung (minimum No. 9 twine) Wired (23 gage steel wire)